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TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY 3216
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 150306

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, MY
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES RE: MALAYSIAN
IMPRISONMENT OF OON SIEW TAN

1. ON BEHALF OF A CONSTITUTENT, SENATORS SLADE GORTON AND HENRY JACKSON HAVE INQUIRED ABOUT THE STATUS OF A MR. OON SIEW TAN. IN AN ACCOMPANYING LETTER TO THE SENATORS, THE CONSTITUTENT DESCRIBED MR. OON AS A "PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE", AND NOTED THAT MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES HAD NEITHER REPLIED TO NOR ACKNOWLEDGED INQUIRIES REGARDING THE CASE. ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTENT, "MR. OON HAS NOT ADVOCATED OR USED VIOLENCE. HE HAS NOW BEEN DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL FOR OVER TEN YEARS. HE IS HELD AT THE BATU GAJAH SPECIAL DETENTION CAMP WHERE CONDITIONS ARE KNOWN TO BE DEPLORABLE."

2. REQUEST EMBASSY LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND PROVIDE DEPARTMENT (EA/IMBS) A REPORT WHICH WE WILL TRANSMIT TO THE SENATORS. STOESEL

END OF MESSAGE

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State Dept. review completed

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